

My AISD

Volume 4, Issue 1, August 2018

No slowing Burris after 50 years

Arlington High School English teacher Francine Burris has some momentum going into her second half century of teaching.

Burris, who just started her 51st year of teaching, will do so as the school's reigning teacher of the year with no signs of slowing down any time soon.

"My favorite part of the job is still getting up in front of the classroom and teaching," said Burris, who turns 73 in September. "I tell the kids that most of them are probably smarter than me. I just know more."

Burris knows more because of a lifetime built on education.

She began her teaching career in Pennsylvania in the fall of 1967 and started teaching in Texas a year later in the Burkburnett school district. She started teaching in the AISD after her daughter was born in 1977. She spent 17 years at Gunn Junior High and



Arlington High English teacher Francine Burris just started her 51st year teaching, with the last 41 coming in the AISD.

just started her 24th year at Arlington High.

She's seen plenty of colleagues come and go.

She's taught students and their children, although she's yet to teach a grandchild of one of her former students.

She teaches alongside more than a dozen teachers at Arlington who were her

SEE BURRIS, PAGE 3



A message from Dr. Cavazos

The school year is less than two weeks old, and I think we've already found our inspiration for what promises to be an outstanding 2018-2019 school year.

Arlington High's Francine Burris has been teaching for longer than many of you have been alive and doing it at a high level. Teaching for 50 years is amazing, but starting your 51st year as the teacher of the year at Arlington is a reminder she's still at the top of her game. What impresses me the most is that while there's little she hasn't seen, she's still willing to try new things. She's a perfect reminder of the effective teaching and

leadership we have in the district.

The first edition of *My AISD* also gives you an update from Dr. Steven Wurtz about our focus on developing leaders in the district. It's a huge initiative and one that he'll be filling you in on throughout the year.

If you have time, head to the AISD Dan Dipert Career and Technical Center to be pampered by our outstanding [cosmetology students](#). It was one of our stops on the first day tweet-along and the students did a wonderful job giving me a trim. It's just another example of how we prepare students to be ready for college, career and citizenship.

Leaders set path for learners

Welcome back! I hope that you had a wonderful summer and were able to spend your months learning and experiencing new things that personally bring you joy and recharge you for the year ahead.



THE LEARNER'S EXPERIENCE

It's that time of year when our exceptional learners enter schools eager with anticipation about all that lies ahead in the coming months.

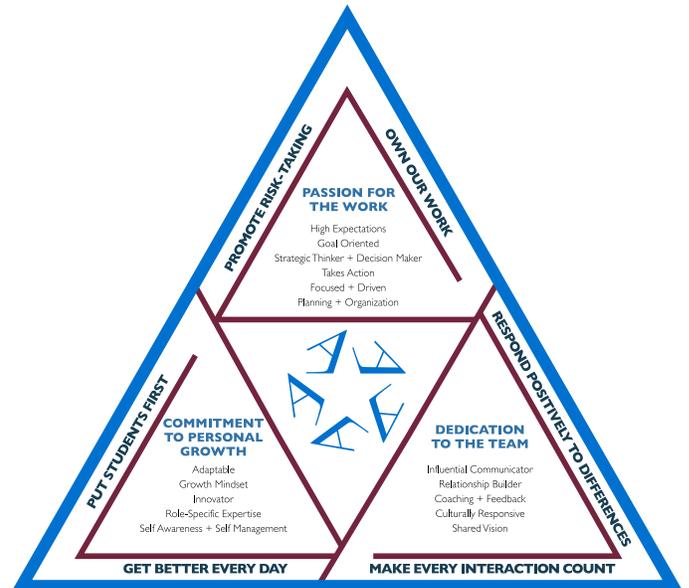
Our job is to meet their expectations and to ensure that their learning experiences are rigorously engaging and stir their creativity as they work to determine their life paths and pursue their chosen goals. This is an exciting opportunity and one that

requires leadership and, more specifically, for each of us to embody **passion for the work**, a **commitment to personal growth** and **dedication to the team**.

What does it mean to have a **passion for the work**? Passion is a strong driver that reflects not only ambition but also a deep commitment to action. It represents enthusiasm and excitement! It is supported by a deep value system that is reflected in our day-to-day behaviors. Passion is contagious and pushes us all to be our best for those we serve!

Being our best means that we have a **commitment to personal growth**. As we try new innovative approaches and try new things in an effort to meet our students' individual learning needs, we have to be adaptable and to be willing to grow. When things don't work exactly as we planned, we support one another, learn from our mistakes and try again as a team. As educators, we believe in the learning process. The better we become in our craft, the better we can serve others.

LEADERSHIP DEFINITION



As you embark on this year's exciting journey, I invite you to deepen your **dedication to the team**. Together let's strive to further build collaborative relationships and share our ideas, talents and unique strengths with one another. Let's be vulnerable and ask for feedback as we work together to serve our students and to improve our craft. We all share a powerful common vision that 100 percent of our students will graduate

exceptionally prepared for college, career and citizenship. That takes each of us, and I am honored to work side by side with each of you in pursuit of that goal!

May you have a wonderful start to your school year and savor the joy in knowing the positive impact you will be making in the months and year to come.

Dr. Steven Wurtz is the chief academic officer for the AISD

Discounts available for AISD employees

Did you know that at three [McDonald's](#) locations in Arlington you can get free coffee on Friday mornings just by showing your badge? Or that if you go to the AISD Dan Dipert Career and Technology Center you can get a [haircut or manicure](#) for as little as \$5 while helping an AISD student in the process?

If you know how to navigate the intranet and get to the employee perks and discounts page, you can find that and much more. In the last month we've added those discounts to the page as well as others from [LA Fitness](#), [Pluckers](#) and many more. Make sure and check the page frequently as it's updated throughout the year. If you know of

other discounts please email Anthony Andro at aandro@aisd.net.

Remember we are also always looking for great stories about employees in the district like Francine Burris. If you know of someone who has an interesting story outside the classroom or office, please let us know by sending an email to aandro@aisd.net.



Arlington

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
More Than a Remarkable Education

SEPTEMBER DATES

Library Card Sign-up Month

Christa McAuliffe's Birthday	Sept. 2
Labor Day (Staff Holiday)	Sept. 3
Grandparents' Day	Sept. 9
Cowboys Begin Super Bowl Run	Sept. 9
Rosh Hashanah Begins (sundown)	Sept. 9
National Arts in Education Week	Sept. 9-15
Patriot Day	Sept. 11
Rosh Hashanah Ends (sundown)	Sept. 11
Hispanic Heritage Month Begins	Sept. 15
Texian Navy Day	Sept. 15
Stepfamily Day	Sept. 16
Citizenship Day & Constitution Day	Sept. 17
National Cheeseburger Day	Sept. 18
Yom Kippur	Sept. 19
Peace Day	Sept. 21
First Day of Autumn	Sept. 22
Sam Houston HS Homecoming	Sept. 28
Arlington HS Homecoming	Sept. 28
End of First Six Weeks	Sept. 28



Congratulations to bus safety trainer Natalie Carter, who was recently honored for completing 25 years of accident-free driving.

BURRIS FROM PAGE 1

students. They were there giving her a standing ovation when she was named the teacher of the year in June. She's also had one of her job evaluations administered by one of her students.

Burriss is ready for more, too, as retirement isn't on the horizon anytime soon.

"I really like what I do, and I'm not multi-talented in other areas," the grandmother of two said. "All my friends have said, 'You'll know when it's time to retire. It will hit you.' It hasn't happened. What I'm doing now is so real world, and that's what I love about it."

Burriss believes she's a better teacher now than when she started because of her experience inside and outside the classroom. Having a child of her own helped her become a better teacher because she could see things through a different lens.

Burriss has also seen plenty of changes to the profession over the last 50 years.

"Well obviously technology wasn't even there," she said. "I have joked with my students about when we are reading some of Henry David

Thoreau's essays and how he was castigated for going against corporal punishment in schools. I explained to them about how when I first taught teachers had their own paddles and how they used them. We've progressed from teachers paddling to principals paddling and now we're not allowed to do that to them. With students we're now battling all their other interests. They have jobs. They have their technology. They have the extracurricular activities, so many things they have to juggle. At the high school level they're taking eight classes. It's a bigger challenge to get them motivated. Parents have changed. We're always trying to find ways to help students be more successful. It's much more challenging."

It may be challenging, but it doesn't show to anyone who's seen Burriss in the classroom.

"The thing that makes Ms. Burriss such an effective teacher, even after 50 years, is her heart. Her love for her students drives everything she does," Arlington Principal Dr. Shahveer

Dhalla said. "The kids absolutely recognize that love and love her back. It's obvious that even after all this time, there's nowhere she'd rather be than at school, helping her kids be successful."

The kids have helped her, too. If Burriss has any questions about technology she has students who are eager to help. They got her to join Instagram, even though she rarely uses it.

She also has a Facebook account, but that's more for checking on pictures of her grandchildren.

Burriss has cut things back a little for this school year. After 22 years as the head of the English department she's given up the reins because she wants to keep her focus on her first love – teaching.

"What I do now is really much more challenging, and it's exciting because when my students take their AP exam, that's my test," she said. "The main thing that keeps me going is knowing that I'm helping them improve their writing for college and life. That's what I hear from them. That's what I really love about it."

First day of school tweet-along



New Gunn Junior High track



Butler Elementary



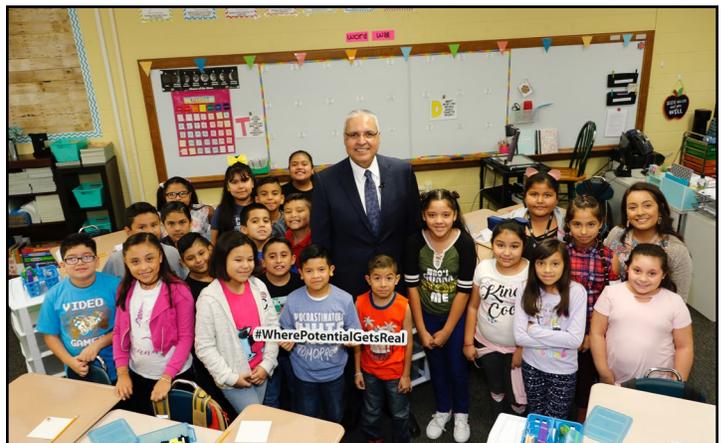
Sherrod Elementary



Ditto Elementary



Martin High School



Knox Elementary

10 hours, 45 minutes
12 campuses
3 haircuts

13,387 steps
57.7 miles driven
12 Korean meatballs eaten

First day of school tweet-along



Atherton Elementary



Fitzgerald Elementary



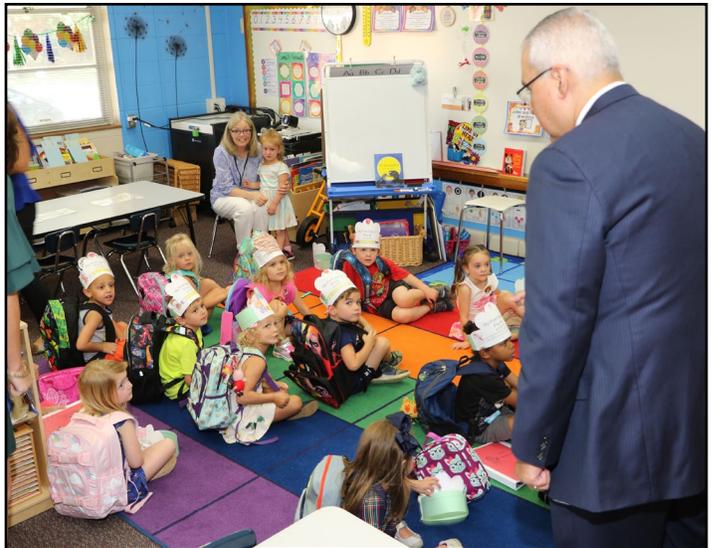
New lunch at Bowie High School



Farrell Elementary



AISD Dan Dipert CTC Cosmetology Department



Duff Elementary

Tina Baze, Specialist
Risk Management
Arlington ISD
1203 W. Pioneer Pkwy.
Arlington, TX 76013
Office: 682-867-7649
Fax: 682-867-4682

*****Accident***
What to do next?**

Contact supervisor. If an emergency response professional is needed call 911.

Contact the risk management office at 682-867-7649.

[Complete workers' comp packet.](#)

Completed packet should be sent to the risk management office in the administration building.

Our greatest weakness lies in giving up.

The most certain way to succeed is always to try just one more time.

Thomas Edison

RISK MANAGEMENT REVIEW AUGUST 2018

Hurry up can hurt

Does that sound familiar? Or is it one of those things only other people do? Often when we rush through a job nothing bad happens. Sometimes we may experience a near miss. However, eventually a serious injury will happen because it is only a matter of time. Is it worth risking our eyes, our limbs, our life or someone else's to save a few minutes on the job? When we hurry up on the job we are often not only speeding up our work but speeding up our chances of having an accident.



Let's review some safe work practices:

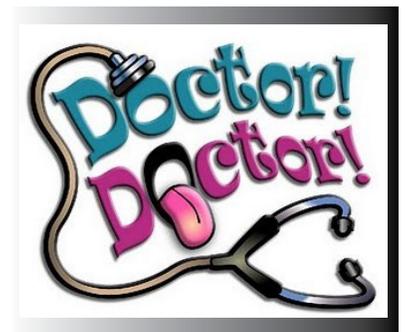
- Use personal protective gear when necessary
- Take the extra steps needed to do the job properly
- Always use the correct tool for the job
- Check to make sure safety guards are in place
- Keep the worksite tidy
- Return tools and supplies to their proper place
- Use proper lifting techniques
- Be alert to ways in which the workplace can be safer.



If you are injured at work, even if you think it is something minor, report it to your supervisor immediately and complete a workers' compensation packet. All injuries should be reported to the risk management office within 24 hours of the injury. Packets are located on the intranet under staff favorites. All documents in the packet must be completed in full, including the FMLA forms. Failure to report your injury to a supervisor in a timely manner may result in your claim being denied.

Can I visit my own doctor for a work injury?

No. You must select a primary care physician from the Alliance list of doctors. This list can be found at www.pswca.org. You must go to your selected primary care physician for all injury care. If a specialist is required, your primary care physician will refer you. Treating an injury outside of the Alliance network could result in you being responsible for paying the bills.



**Remember, practice safety.
Don't learn by accident.**

Ag Science Center runs on solar, wind

The first and only net-zero building in the Arlington area is the Arlington ISD's new Agricultural Science Center. As a net-zero facility, it utilizes a solar array and wind turbine to produce more energy annually than it consumes. On average it produces more energy than it uses each day and pushes the surplus onto the local power grid.

On sunny summer days, the Ag Science Center's solar array produces about one megawatt of electricity, and the wind turbine produces about 1.7 kilowatts per day. Solar panels produce DC current, so inverters convert the DC voltage off the array into AC electricity that the building can use. None of the electricity is stored, so the Ag Science Center uses what it needs and then pushes any surplus onto the local power grid. Equipped with a bi-directional meter, the Ag Science Center can also buy electricity from the grid whenever solar and wind are not producing enough, like at night. The facility also has four rain water storage tanks and uses the collected water for irrigation and other purposes.

"This is the start of using solar to lower our energy use," said Danny Helm, AISD energy manager.

Not only does it lower energy use, but it also lowers energy bills. And the excess energy that the Ag Science Center produces and delivers provides the district a renewable energy credit on its monthly power bill.

"The idea of being environmentally conscience is not just reducing, reusing



and recycling," said Kelly Horn, AISD executive director of plant services. "It has grown to include energy conservation and efficiency."

Energy efficiency is now a major priority for the AISD. In fact, since 2010-2011, the AISD has reduced the amount of electricity it uses per square foot by 28 percent.

"The district as a whole has gone a long way toward being more efficient," Helm said.

But Helm, Horn and the district are always looking for more ways to improve. With the 2014 Bond program, they recognized an opportunity to take their energy efficiency efforts a step further.

"We wanted to bring something into the district that would be a teaching tool for the future," Helm said.

Thus, the district coupled its energy goals with plans to build a bond-funded ag education facility, and then worked with VLK Architects to design and build the Agricultural Science Center.

The Ag Science Center's purposeful design keeps energy consumption low, ensuring the energy production from the building's solar array and

wind turbine is sufficient.

Good ventilation is key. One main corridor – wide enough for pickup trucks and animal trailers – runs the length of the building and has large garage doors on either end. That, combined with large fans and strategically-placed vents, ensures good air flow. LED lighting and high-efficiency HVAC equipment also keep energy consumption low.

"It's a small building," Helm said, designed with energy efficiency in mind."

It was also designed with ag education in mind. The 23,000 square-foot building houses 54 flexible-fencing pens for goats and sheep, 14 heifer pens, rabbit pens, an animal exercise area, two large classrooms, and a metal construction lab.

Open less than a year – animals, teachers and students moved in during October 2017 – the Ag Science Center is already providing new opportunities for many Arlington students.

"Because of the Ag Science Center, now students from all six AISD high schools can take ag classes," said Ginger Polster, principal of the Ag Science Center and the

AISD Dan Dipert Career and Technical Center.

Interest in ag education is growing, and the new facility is a big reason why. Classes at the Ag Science Center are already maxed out for the 2018-2019 school year with 559 high school students enrolled, and the number of ag teachers in the district has grown from three to 10 in the last three years to keep pace with student course requests.

But the district doesn't view the Ag Science Center as just a high school building. The vision for the facility includes students of all ages. Elementary and junior high students will get to visit the Ag Science Center, to experience agriculture and learn lessons like where their food and clothes come from. And they'll learn about energy, electricity and conservation.

As part of that vision, the entrance to the Ag Science Center features a 55-inch interactive touch screen that will soon display a dashboard showing the center's production and usage of energy. Students will be able to see in real-time how it all works. And since the Ag Science Center is sub-metered, the dashboard will show how much energy is being used by different building systems, like HVAC or lighting, at any given time.

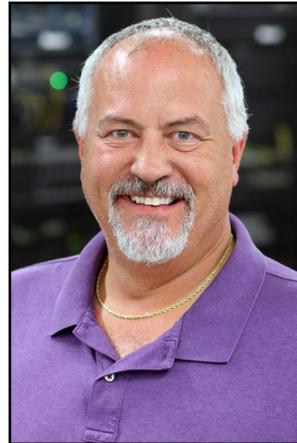
"The AISD's new Ag Science Center helps to make these ideas a reality for our students and our community," Horn said. "Our students will experience a facility unlike any other in the nation. The net-zero concept is not new to school construction, but the idea is still in its infancy."

ACCESSIBILITY
TANGIBLES
RELIABILITY
RESPONSIVENESS
EMPATHY



Accessibility
 Tamika Powell
 Roark Elementary

What they said: She did an outstanding job during student registration. She not only assisted with meal applications, but she also helped with copies and answering the phones while others were busy. Her willingness to jump in was much appreciated.



Tangibles
 Glenn Higgs
 Tech Support

What they said: He turned around an equipment request for a new employee in less than six work hours. He delivered the computer and related hardware while she was away from the office, so he set it up. It really helped to demonstrate to a new member of our team the extent to which customer service is valued.



Reliability
 John Badawi
 Dropout Prevention

What they said: John is an exemplary employee. He arrives every day with a smile on his face ready to work. He goes above and beyond in taking care of the building, the staff and students. He is a valuable member of the dropout prevention team, and we appreciate his hard work.



Responsiveness
 Guillermina Talavera
 Plant Services

What they said: We have been at the CTC a few times for meetings, and Mina is very helpful. She goes above and beyond and took the time to get us our requested items even though she was very busy. She is a great asset to the district.



Empathy
 Larry Turpin
 Security

What they said: I am so extremely appreciative to have such an amazing security officer that not only prioritizes the safety of the campuses he is assigned to, but also the staff.

A customer forms an impression of service received over time depending on a range of experiences. Have you recently experienced exemplary service from anyone in the AISD? If so, affirm their practice by sending a shout out to bit.ly/AISDSERVE, and we'll recognize them! Be sure to let us know which component of the framework was exemplified (accessibility, tangibles, reliability, responsiveness or empathy).